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JUN 30 1961
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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

June 30, 1961
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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL [redacted] (begin OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

1. US-Soviet Relations. Chairman Khrushchev made two long public speeches during the week, in Alma Ata on June 24 and in Moscow June 28, in which he reaffirmed his earlier announced intention to proceed with a separate German peace treaty if necessary before the end of the year even at the cost of a deterioration in East-West relations. At the same time the Soviet press reported Secretary Rusk's June 23 press conference in which it was made clear that the US intends to remain in Berlin. Likewise the press reported the President's June 28 press conference in a manner which indicated that, although the door is open for negotiations, the US is determined to remain firm in Berlin. The press, however, to some extent mitigated the impression of inevitable deterioration of the international situation over Berlin by printing material indicating that some influential western circles are receptive to the Soviet proposals on Berlin and by insinuating that the opponents of a Berlin settlement are the old "cold war forces" whose views have not necessarily prevailed with the new US Administration.

The Soviet press has said little about the bilateral US-Soviet disarmament talks but has given some indication that not much is expected to result from them. Pravda commented that the American press is distorting Soviet positions crudely and is afraid to tell the American people that the Soviets want an exchange of views which would move disarmament out of the realm of procedural maneuvers into real substantive negotiation. Pravda claimed it is no secret that the US would prefer to limit the current talks to the composition of the committee and procedural questions. It charged that, in seeking merely to create another committee for fruitless discussions, the opponents of disarmament are guilty of deceiving the peoples.

The Salinger-Adzhubei June 24 TV debate was given brief treatment in the press here. The fact that Adzhubei and Kharlamov were received by President Kennedy was noted approvingly by the press and singled out for praise by Khrushchev in his June 28 speech. As for the TV debate itself the Soviet press said Salinger had repeated old US themes about the freedom of the American press and contentions about the USSR being a closed society. The Soviet participants were described as criticizing the American press for sensationalism, addiction to scandals and crime, and raising a bellicose hullabaloo over West Berlin at present.

(begin OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

2. Laos. The Soviet press continued its practice of the previous week of keeping material on Laos down to a bare minimum. Khrushchev's June 28 speech at a "Soviet-Vietnam Friendship" meeting in honor of DRV Prime Minister Pham Van Dong conveyed the impression that chances of a settlement of the Laotian question were good, provided that matters were left up to the Laotians themselves to decide. Khrushchev claimed that the Geneva Conference has not made much progress thus far because of alleged US delaying tactics, but indicated hope that "in the end" the conference would be successful. The Soviet press similarly presented the Zurich meeting as a success achieved by the Laotians themselves over US efforts to persuade Boun Oum to hold out against agreement on a coalition government to be headed by Souvanna Phouma. The press

however, was vague as to what actually was agreed to at Zurich and how the meeting of the three princes has affected the Geneva Conference proceedings and the lack of agreement on ceasefire verification.

3. Near and Middle East. The sharpest Soviet press treatment of the Gursel regime noted to date was contained in a Pravda (June 27) article. Pravda charged "certain circles" in Turkey--Gursel was nowhere mentioned by name--with fomenting anti-Soviet hysteria in an effort to divert popular attention from the country's difficulties due to its membership in military blocs. The Turkish Government was said to have failed to use the good opportunities presented by the 1960 coup for a return to the policies of Ataturk. In conclusion, Pravda asked whether Turkish leading circles would find the wisdom to put an end to dangerous tendencies inspired from abroad and follow, not in words but in deed, the only sensible path of peace and good-neighborly relations with the USSR.

The Kuwait crisis was reported briefly and circumspectly in the Soviet press, without indication that the Soviets intended to take sides in the dispute. Characteristically, Soviet comment charged that the "imperialists" were hastening to take advantage of the situation, citing the retention of British forces in the Kuwait area, and US press reports about possible CENTO action. At the same time, the press made it clear that the UAR and Iraq were taking differing positions. Congratulatory telegrams from Nasser and the heads of other Arab states to the Sheik were reported, with the remark that they were immediately followed by the announcement of the Iraqi claim.

There was no further follow-up to the Soviet press campaign against the UAR over the al-Hilu case following publication of the exchange of greetings by Khrushchev, Brezhnev, and Nasser on the occasion of the Arab New Year.

4. Congo. Soviet press comment on Congo developments has hewn to the line that the Stanleyville regime, as the "legal government," enjoys increasing support from the Congolese people, while the "Leopoldville authorities" are faced with a steady loss of prestige. This was the rationale given in connection with the agreement to convene parliament, a development said to be initiated by Gizenga and reluctantly agreed to by Mobutu, Ileo, and Kasavubu. The agreement to release Tshombe was presented as a suspicious deal between Katanga and the central government although, as in all Soviet reporting of Congo events, the underlying factors were obscured by clouds of anti-colonialist rhetoric.

5. Visits. North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong was greeted on his arrival in Moscow June 26 by Khrushchev, Mikoyan, and Mukhitdinov and a number of Soviet officials responsible for Soviet external economic affairs. Two points emerged from the short airport speeches. Pham used the phrase "center of the Socialist camp" to describe the USSR, thus avoiding both the November 1960 "vanguard" concept supposedly volunteered by the Soviets and the "leader" formula apparently still preferred by the Chinese. It was also noteworthy that Pham made no reference to the CPR, which he recently visited.

A North Korean party-government delegation headed by Premier Kim Il-sung arrived in Moscow on June 29.

The Cambodian Minister of Information, Chou Seng, arrived June 27 on a visit to the USSR at the invitation of the State Committee on Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. (end OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

(begin CONFIDENTIAL)

The Embassy learned from a Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs official that Yugoslav Foreign Minister Popovic was expected to arrive in the USSR in the period July 10-17. It will be recalled that the announcement (at the end of May) of the Popovic visit stated that he would be in the USSR in the first half of June. (end CONFIDENTIAL)

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

6. Leadership. In seven days Khrushchev delivered four major addresses, two in connection with his attendance (June 23-26) at the 40th anniversary celebration for Kazakhstan in Alma Ata and two in connection with the visit of north Viet-Nam Prime Minister Pham Van Dong on June 27 and 28. Thus far, his June 25 Alma Ata speech has been published only in condensed form. The weekly journals among them Ogonek (No. 26), continued to echo various Khrushchev "cult" themes of the previous week portraying the Soviet leader as a statesman, friend of the people, warrior (numerous photographs in uniform), friend of science.

The weather has been ideal for vacations but only three resident members of the presidium Polyanskiy, Suslov and Ignatov were unaccounted for in the press during the week and were possibly out of town. During Khrushchev's visit to Alma Ata First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers A. I. Mikoyan seemed to be left in charge in Moscow, but during the four-day period there was not much activity. The other First Deputy Chairman, A. N. Kosygin, took advantage of the lull for a tour of the provinces: in Saratov on June 25 he concerned himself with various sovnarkhoz enterprises and then, for three days in the Kuzbass, (Kemerovo) again visiting various enterprises of the Kemerovo economic district. Writing as First Secretary of Sverdlovsk Oblast Candidate Presidium member A. P. Kirilenko published an article in Pravda on June 27 admitting deficiencies in his oblast and stressing the need for "strict controls" as a remedy.

Other presidium activity during the week was mixed. Minister of Culture Furtseva gave a reception for the American Ice Capades troupe on June 26. Pospelov met a Polish party delegation on June 23 as head of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism. A different Polish party delegation had been received a day earlier by Mukhitdinov and Kozlov, both CC secretaries. Brezhnev as "Chief of State" met a Peruvian parliamentary delegation on June 22, a Greek parliamentary delegation on June 23 and, the north Viet-Nam Prime Minister on June 27. Grishin, attending the WFTU meeting in his capacity as vice-president of the EFTU executive bureau, returned to Moscow June 27.

7. Protecting the Letter-Writing Complainer from Retaliation. "Letters to the Editor" provide the Soviet regime with a useful mechanism that allows the population to air dissatisfaction openly and that affords an additional control--public exposure--on ineffectual officials. The regime does not want the steady stream of these "signals from below" to dry up and has reacted to a case of reprisals against a letter-writer.

Publication of an account of the troubles and persecution inflicted upon two Ukrainians (a Ukrainian high school teacher of Russian and a doctor) who complained by letter of "backwardness" in their raion in Kirovograd Oblast (Pravda of June 28) coincides with an article in Kommunist emphasizing the importance of giving proper attention to workers' letters ("Fight Decisively Against Account Padding and Deception," Kommunist, No 9, June 1961).

On January 26 Pravda published a letter from the Ukrainian pair complaining that their raion had lost cattle and that corn and beets were left lying in the field unharvested. Ever since publication of the letter, according to Pravda, the pair has been harassed by the local CP secretary and ispolkom chairman. The teacher has had to fill out all kinds of questionnaires and now "practically every morning" must appear "on short notice" before various official "establishments" to give "more exact details." Investigation into the matter by one Velichko, a "worker of the CC of the Ukrainian CP" did not end the harassment, but aggravated it. Velichko wanted to know by what right a teacher and a doctor mixed into agricultural matters. Furthermore, knowing about the doctor's criminal past, he used blackmail in an attempt to obtain a retraction.

Kommunist states that "these letters comprise the expressions of limitless faith of the people for our party and party...." and adds bluntly, "those who inflict punishment on the authors of letters which expose improper activities deserve the most severe penalty." One of the main points of the Kommunist article is that the crimes of cheating the state and account padding occur most often where criticism is silenced and courageous and correct persons victimized.

8. Incentives for Higher Agricultural Production. Having wielded the "stick" by action against numerous party and government officials who proved corrupt or dishonest, many republics are now displaying a "carrot" by improving their incentive systems. Kazakhstanskaya Pravda of June 17 publishes a recommendation by the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture for premium payments to Kolkhoz and sovkhoz workers who fulfill their plans. It covers an entire page and goes into some detail on the incentives to be paid for excellence in cultivating various crops. In Armenia, the Central Committee and the Council of Ministers have adopted a special resolution setting up a jury system for judging awards for cotton production in that republic (Kommunist Armenia of June 13). The jury includes everyone of any importance to agriculture in the republic from an Armenian CC secretary (who is chairman) and a deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Agricultural Purchases, to the Chief of the Armenian CC on Agriculture.

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9. KGB Major General Dies. Red Star of June 29 carries the obituary of 52-year old Major General A. M. Korotkov, said to be a "responsible worker" in the Committee for State Security (KGB). Korotkov served in the OGPU fro. the age of 19 (1928) to the present. He is said to have received the Order of Lenin and other decorations for war-time service and for "fulfilling special tasks of the party and of the government." He is also said to have belonged to "the collective of Chekists until the last day of his life." (This suggests that the term "Chekist" still is in current usage within the KGB.)

The obituary is another example of a general trend to give publicity to the KGB and its higher functionaries. For example, most recently KGB Deputy Chairman P.I. Ivashutin attended a luncheon for Pham Van Dong (Pravda of June 28). KGB Chairman A.N. Shelepin and former Chairman I.A.Serov are often seen on public occasions in Moscow (G-469 of January 10, 1961).

MILITARY

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FOR THE AMBASSADOR

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